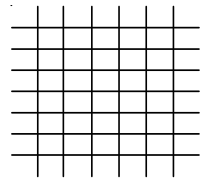


# **keep your compost bin and** **garden free from rodents**

1. Compost should be vegetarian. Do not add meat, bones, fat, dairy foods or oily cooked foods.
2. Don't let weeds or tall grass grow around your composter because this gives rats a place to hide. Also, keep your composter 1.5 feet from any wall.
3. Cover up the food you add to your composter with leaves, wood chips, pine needles, twigs, paper towels, shredded newspaper or other dry "brown" carbon materials to eliminate odors.
4. Keep your composter lid shut tight.
5. Pick up fallen fruit or vegetables from your garden, otherwise it can be a source of food that rats will return to.
6. Rats might nest in a compost pile that is dry and undisturbed. Keep your pile moist and active.
7. Rats hate the smell of mint. Chop up and crush leaves and stems, boil them in water, and spray the mixture around your bin. Keep it as concentrated as possible.
8. Use a bird feeder that catches dropped seeds and don't overfeed. Store seed in metal or heavy plastic containers with lids.
9. Pick up a free 3 foot square piece of 1/2 inch wire mesh from Public Works to place underneath your composter to prevent rodents from burrowing in.



## **if you see a rat ...**

Please call the City's Rodent Hotline at 617-349-4899 or email us at [rodents@cambridgema.gov](mailto:rodents@cambridgema.gov). For more information, visit our website at [www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/services/rodentcontrol.html](http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks/services/rodentcontrol.html).

# **keep your kitchen scrap bucket and worm bin free from fruit flies**

1. Keep a tight-fitting lid on your worm bin and scrap bucket.
2. Put your kitchen scrap bucket in the refrigerator.
3. Chop food up to make it easier for worms to eat.
4. Cover buried food in your worm bin with ample bedding, typically shredded newsprint.
5. Take notice of uneaten food and do not overfeed.
6. Control excess moisture in your worm bin: add a layer of dry bedding, leave the lid off for a few hours and let evaporate, or use a turkey baster to drain it out.
7. To get rid of fruit flies, try making a vinegar trap (cut a plastic bottle in half and put the top upside-down in the bottom), vacuum flies when you remove the lid, or change the bedding.



## **how to use finished compost...**

1. Potting soil: mix equal parts of compost or worm castings with organic store bought potting soil or sand and loam. Remove large particles.
2. Soil amendment: Apply 1-3" of compost and mix with the top 4" of soil one month before planting vegetables or flowers.
3. Lawn/turf: spread it 1/4" deep to reseed and rejuvenate.
4. Mulch: spread 3-4" around trees or shrubs.

## **we sell compost bins for only \$25**



Purchase a rodent-proof SoilMaker at Public Works at 147 Hampshire Street, Inman Square.

Come by during **regular office hours:**

Mon 8:30-8pm, Tues-Thur 8:30-5pm, Fri 8:30-noon

or during **Recycling Drop-Off Center hours:**

Tues and Thurs 4:30-7pm and Sat 9-4pm.

*The Drop-off Center is located in the rear of the Public Works yard and is closed to the public at all other times.*

## **free compost and wood chips**

From April-October, residents may pick up small quantities of wood chips and compost at the Recycling Drop-Off Center during open hours. Call ahead: 617-349-4800.

